

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 OMB-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /125 W

----- 126421

R 170924Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1609

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: XX, PK, SY

SUBJ: PRESS STATEMENTS ON ALLEGED US INVOLVEMENT IN MIDEAST WAR

1. SYRIAN EMBASSY ISSUED PRESS RELEASE OCTOBER 16 ASSERT-
ING SYRIANS HAD "SUFFICIENT PROOF, BEYOND ANY DOUBT" THAT
AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AIRCRAFT AND PILOTS WERE INVOLVED
IN BOMBING "OUR DEFENSELESS CIVILIANS AND OUR CITIES,
Factories and hospitals." Stating that "AMERICAN GOVERN-
ment bears full responsibility as to consequences of
their direct involvement of their aircraft and per-
sonnel", release concluded that "sensational news" would
be revealed at a proper time about numbers and identity
of American airmen.

2. CHARGE TELEPHONED SYRIAN AMBASSADOR ALLOUNI MORNING
OCTOBER 17 AND EXPRESSED DEEP REGRET OVER ABOVE RELEASE.
STATED WE HAD BEEN THOROUGHLY ASSURED THAT NO US
GOVERNMENT MILITARY FORCES OR PERSONNEL WERE INVOLVED
IN MIDEAST FIGHTING. ALLOUNI SAID HE WANTED CHARGE
TO UNDERSTAND THAT HE WAS UNDER INSTRUCTIONS TO
PUBLICIZE MATERIAL SUCH AS CONTAINED IN SYRIAN EMBASSY
PRESS RELEASE. HE WENT ON TO EXPRESS SHOCK OF SYRIAN

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PEOPLE OVER BOMBING OF DAMASCUS, COMMENTING THAT HIS

WIFE HAD JUST RETURNED FROM THAT CITY WHERE SHE HAD SEEN EFFECTS OF BOMBING WITHIN 200 YARDS OF THEIR HOME, IT WAS BELIEVED THAT AMERICANS HAD PARTICIPATED ACTIVELY. CHARGE EXPRESSED PERSONAL REGRET THAT FIGHTING HAD BROKEN OUT AT ALL AND OVER INEVITABLE LOSSES WHICH IT WAS ENTAILING. REAFFIRMED THAT US GOVERNMENT WAS NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN THE FIGHTING. ENTIRE EXCHANGE OVER TELEPHONE WAS CONDUCTED IN FRIENDLY, PERSONAL VEIN CONVEYING SORROW RATHER THAN ANGER.

3. CHARGE ALSO TELEPHONED ACTING FOREIGN SECRETARY SHAIKH MORNING OCTOBER 17 TO CALL ATTENTION TO SYRIAN EMBASSY RELEASE OF PREVIOUS DAY. STATING HE WAS NOT RPT NOT MAKING FORMAL DEMARCHE OR PROTEST, CHARGE EXPRESSED BELIEF THAT SYRIAN RELEASE VIOLATED USUAL THIRD-COUNTRY RULE. CHARGE TOOK OCCASION TO AFFIRM THAT NO US GOVERNMENT MILITARY FORCES OR PERSONNEL WERE INVOLVED IN MIDEAST FIGHTING. SAID HE FELT CONSTRAINED, BECAUSE OF POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF SYRIAN EMBASSY RELEASE, TO ISSUE OUR OWN STATEMENT TO PRESS REFUTING SYRIAN ALLEGATIONS. ASSURED SHAIKH THAT EMBASSY WOULD AVOID ANY PROVOCATIVE LANGUAGE AS WE DID NOT WANT ISSUE TO GROW. SHAIKH THANKED CHARGE FOR TELEPHONING THIS MESSAGE.

4. EMBASSY ISSUING PRESS RELEASE OCTOBER 17. TEXT BY IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MESSAGE.SOBER

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 17 OCT 1973
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Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
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Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
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Disposition Reason:
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ISecure: 1
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